

Thursday

Another reminder we mentioned this past Sun was *St. Nicholas* - the original Nicholas, who was a strong, intelligent & generous church leader. How does the example of those who lived strong Christian lives in the past serve to inspire you today?

When I think of Nicholas, I am inspired to be more giving, since after all I have “freely received” from Jesus so much more than I could ever give. Read Hebrews 11:1-16 for another great list of inspiring saints. Which examples pop out to you?

Think of a tough time you are going through right now. How do you think these saints would advise you if you asked them about that situation?

Pray about a specific struggle today. Ask God for the kind of character transformation that Abraham, Moses, Nicholas and others evidenced in their lives.

Friday

We spoke this past Sunday about how evergreens reminded past Christians of God’s promise of a new earth. The Bible promises not only heaven, but also a new earth where we will enjoy the beauty of our physical world without the corruption & suffering. Read Rev. 21:1-4 and Isaiah 41:17-20. According to these verses, what will life be like on the new earth & Heaven?

In what ways are these promises meaningful to you?

How can you remind yourself today and throughout the season of God’s promised future for His people?

Ask the Lord to remind you of the promise of a new earth that retains the beauty of creation without the corrupting effects of sin. If you have never received God’s offer of pardon & entrance into Heaven, do so now by praying to receive Him into your life.

Saturday

Today memorize that memory verse and finish up any devotions you may have missed. Please pray for the services this Sunday. Website: foothillsunitedmethodist.org (Like us on Facebook)

Foothills United Methodist Church

Songs of the Season Sermon Series

Pastor Brad Chesebro November 28, 2021

“I Wonder as I Wander”

Five ways to increase my sense of wonder this season:

1. When I see _____ . . .

I’ll remember _____

“Through him all things were made... The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.” John 1:3,9

Jesus: “I am the light of the world.” John 8:12

2. When I see _____ . . .

I’ll remember _____

(Christ’s opponents) “Here is a friend of tax collectors & sinners” Matthew 11:19

“I no longer call you servants ...instead, I call you friends.” John 15:15

3. When I see _____ . . .

I’ll remember _____

“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:21 (See Luke 7:48 and Matt. 9:2)

“Your sins have been forgiven on account of His name.”

1 John 2:12

4. When I see _____ . . .

I'll remember _____

"For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers." Romans 8:29

Jesus: "Freely you have received, freely give." Matthew 10:8

5. When I see _____ . . .

I'll remember _____

"I will set pines in the wasteland, the fir and the cypress together ... Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth." Isaiah 41:19; 65:17

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth... He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain..." Revelation 21:1,4

Daily Christmas Meditations:

This week's memory verse: (Matthew 1:21)

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Monday

Read John 1:1-14. The first symbol we discussed this past Sun. was *Christmas lights*. They can help us remember these verses from the Gospel of John. What facts about Jesus ("The Word" and "The Light") can you find in these verses?

What strikes you most about Jesus in this passage? Why?

Why did the Word become flesh and live among us?

How does the reality of "Light becoming human" affect your life?

*Thank God that He came to earth to reach out to us.
Ask Him specifically to be your light in an area of your life
where you need His guidance and relationship.*

Tuesday

The second reminder we talked about this past Sunday was *Christmas cards*. They can remind us that we are on God's "friendship list." Read the words of Christ in John 15:9-17. Why did Jesus call his disciples his friends?

What did Jesus urge his disciples to do?

When is it difficult for you to develop and maintain a personal friendship with Jesus?

How do you feel when you think of Jesus desiring you as friend?

Ask God to help you be a better friend ... to Him! You can begin by talking to Him right now as you would to a friend about what is going on in your life.

Wednesday

The third reminder we discussed on Sunday was *credit cards*! This seems funny, but it is a relief to think that our moral debt has been paid completely by Jesus' work for us on the cross!

Read Romans 5:1-11 and Romans 8:1-2. Paraphrase what it means to be "justified through faith":

How does God show His love for you? (Romans 5:8)

So if you accept what Christ did for you, there is no longer any sin separating you from God! How does this make you feel?

Give thanks to God for the greatest gift of all: We were credited righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ, and all our sin debt was wiped away!